

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 21 and 23 as follows.

1 <sup>16</sup>21. (ONCE AMENDED) An apparatus for increasing a digital camera capture rate,  
2 comprising:  
3 an imaging device for generating raw image data responsive to an image  
4 capture request;  
5 a memory buffer for initially storing the raw image data;  
6 first routines for conveying the initially stored raw image data away from the  
7 frame buffer to a second memory location to provide space for storing additional,  
8 subsequently captured images, wherein the raw image data is stored in uncompressed  
9 form in the second memory location;  
10 second routines for processing said raw image data and for storing said  
11 processed image data; and  
12 a central processing unit coupled to the imaging device and to the memory  
13 buffer, for executing according to a predetermined set of priorities the first and second  
14 routines;  
15 wherein the first routines are assigned priority over the second routines to  
16 thereby facilitate the rapid conveyance of raw image data away from the frame buffer.

1 <sup>18</sup>~~23~~. (ONCE AMENDED) The apparatus of claim <sup>17</sup>~~22~~, wherein the second routines  
2 include:

3 a routine for transferring raw image data from the RAM disk to a flash memory;  
4 a routine for compressing raw image data;  
5 a routine for storing the compressed image data in the RAM disk; and  
6 a routine for transferring the compressed image data from the RAM disk to the  
7 flash memory;  
8 wherein the routine for transferring raw image data from the RAM disk to a  
9 flash memory has priority over the routine for compressing raw image data, [the  
10 routine for compressing raw image data has priority over the routine for compressing  
11 raw image data,] the routine for compressing raw image data has priority over the  
12 routine for storing the compressed image data in the RAM disk, and the routine for  
13 storing the compressed image data in the RAM disk has priority over the routine for  
14 transferring the compressed image data from the RAM disk to the flash memory.

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